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IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claims 1-3, 10, and 11 as follows:

1.   (currently amended) A check comprising:

sheet material;

means defining at least one pre-printed symbol <u>which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed</u> on the sheet material; and

means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the at least one pre-printed symbol <u>which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed</u> on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the pre-printed symbol <u>which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed</u> on the sheet material based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

2.   (currently amended) A check comprising:

sheet material;

at least one symbol <u>which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-</u>printed on the sheet material; and

means for storing on the sheet material apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of the symbol <u>which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-</u>printed on the sheet material to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

3.   (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of a symbol <u>which is other</u>

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than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the check based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

4-9.   (canceled)

10.   (currently amended) A method of storing apriori reference image quality data which is representative of at least one image quality characteristic of at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on a check, the method comprising:

storing the apriori reference image quality data which is representative of the at least one image quality characteristic of the symbol which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre-printed on the check to allow a determination to be made about the image quality of the symbol based upon the stored apriori reference image quality data.

11.   (currently amended) A method of providing an indication of quality of an image of a financial document other than currency, the method comprising:

storing on the financial document apriori reference image quality data which is representative of an image quality characteristic of at least one symbol which is other than a magnetic ink character recognition (MICR) codeline and which is pre-printed on the financial document;

receiving image data which is representative of the image of the financial document;

retrieving the stored apriori reference image quality data;

comparing the retrieved apriori reference image quality data with the image data which is representative of the image of the financial document to determine the image

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quality of the symbol <u>which is other than a MICR codeline and which is pre</u>-printed on the financial document; and

      providing an indication of quality of the image of the financial document based upon the comparison of the apriori reference image quality data with the image data.

      12-13. (canceled)

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